WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN STATE JUNIOR TOBACCO CONTEST

John V. Warren, a Negro student of vocational agriculture from Pittsylvania County, topped in the 1954 tobacco shows and sales contest and will receive a $200 savings bond.

A total of 183 vocational agriculture students and 4-H Club members from 18 counties entered the contest, which is sponsored jointly by local tomacco warehousemen, Tobacco Associates, Inc., and the VPI Agricultural Extension Service.

Other state winners are: David Yeatts, 4-H'er from Prince Edward, $100 bond; and Horace Towler, a 4-H'er from Pittsylvania, $50 bond. Awards will be presented at the January 19 meeting of Old Belt Tobacco Growers Association in Danville.

G. R. Mathews, associate agronomist for the Extension Service, said the 4-H'ers, FFA and NFA members competing sold 168,444 pounds of tobacco for $98,523, an estimated $7,406 more than the same grades of other tobacco being sold on the same market days. This gain was due largely, he said, to the excellent preparation for market. Throughout the contest, which is designed to encourage production of better tobacco and a better job of preparation for market, graders from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service's tobacco branch met with and trained the contestants.

Notable was the fact that of 2,160 baskets entered, only 17 were designated as containing mixed tobacco. Producers are urged not to market mixed tobacco.

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CAUTION AT CHRISTMAS IS URGED BY STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Over most holiday periods we usually think about highway accidents but at Christmas time we need to give special emphasis to home accidents as well, according to Dr. Mack L. Shanholtz, State Health Commissioner.

Last year during the month of December 60 Virginians were killed in home accidents. Of this number 29 died as a result of burns. "No doubt, many of these fires were caused by faulty wiring or careless use of Christmas decorations and Christmas trees," Dr. Shanholtz said.

The Commissioner advised home owners to use safely wired electrical decorations when trimming their homes.

"You can't afford to take chances with Christmas tree figures," Dr. Shanholtz emphasized. "Your tree should be kept in water from the time you bring it home until you throw it away after Christmas. It should not be placed near a fireplace or other location where it is exposed to sparks or heat," he added.

If artificial snow is used on the tree, it should be of the fireproof variety. Metal foil "icicles" should not be hung over wires or tree lights.

Many stores now stock a liquid form of sodium silicate, commonly known as 'Water Glass.' When this solution is diluted, it can be sprayed on the tree. It forms a transparent coating on the tree and effectively prevents fires. This small investment of time and money to fireproof your Christmas tree may save you thousands of dollars from a fire loss. It might mean the saving of your life, too," Dr. Shanholtz said.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FOR VA. IN 1955

Richmond, Va.- Virginia successfully passed the "shake down stage in the cold war" during 1954 and can look forward to an improved economic situation in 1955 as it settles down for what appears to be a long period of uneasy international tension.

That prediction came today from George Jennings, director of research with the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce, in a review of the Virginia economy for 1954.

Citing such trends as the growth of metropolitan areas, increasing average size of farms and the continued industrial expansion of Virginia, Jennings said that "on the whole," the outlook for 1955 is good.

Jennings explained that 1954 was the "shake down" period in the cold war and that adjustments, such as curtailments in military installations and industrial employment, have been carried out with little impact on the overall economy of Virginia.

With that hurdle overcome, he said that the economic picture, as it relates to the national economy, should improve.

Reviewing Virginia's economic picture, Jennings said that three years of drought, coupled with declining prices, had adversely affected the agricultural segment of the economy of the Old Dominion.

"What happens to agriculture in 1955," he explained, "depends largely on climatic conditions."

Ideal Christmas Gift! Lasts for 52 weeks of the year—A gift subscription to the Times-Virginian.

A. H. S. basketball team to play alumni team tonight in the new school gymnasium.

Cold wave abates in Virginia, after coldest snap of the season.

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PEOPLE'S THRIFT-MINDEDNESS AIDS U. S. SAVINGS BOND PROGRAM

The thrift-mindedness of the American people, which has played such an important role in the economy in the last few years, has been particularly helpful to the U. S. Savings Bond program and to the management of the near-record public debt.

Not only have individual purchases of Savings Bonds this year been higher than at any time since the end of World War II nine years ago, but the public has continued to hold on to the bulk of the billions of dollars of E bonds that have reached maturity and thereby eased the drain on the Treasury in a difficult financing period.

The Savings Bond retention ratio has held at about $3 out of every $4 of bonds coming due since they began to mature in 1951. Maintenance of this trend is especially significant this year in view of the volume of 1954 Savings Bond maturities and the economic conditions of the past year.

The widest possible distribution of ownership of Government securities among individuals and the nonbank public has been the cornerstone of Federal debt management policy. Furthermore, since about two-thirds of all marketable U. S. Government securities are due within five years, and only a small part of the total runs more than 10 years, lengthening of the debt maturity is another basic objective.

The Savings Bond program makes a contribution toward both these goals. Ownership of these bonds by individuals currently represents close to a fifth of the entire public debt. Furthermore, the maturity period of E and H bonds, provided they are held and not cashed beforehand, is more than two times the average length of the entire marketable public debt.

This has been the peak year for maturity of E bonds, reflecting the record purchases in 1944. By December, an estimated total of $5.6 billions of such bonds will have fallen due. However, current indications are that more than $4 billions of E bonds maturing in 1954 will be kept and only $1½ billions turned in for cash.

Total E bond maturities from May, 1951, when they started coming due, to the end of this year add up to approximately $15.6 billions. Based on the trend to date, around $11½ billions of these bonds will be held and only about $4 billions cashed. These retained matured bonds represent nearly a third of all E bonds owned by individuals. Here is further evidence of the strength of the people's determination to save.

New purchases of E and H Savings Bonds by individuals this year will run around $5 billions, according to current indications. The total exceeded $4 billions from January through October. Purchases this year have been running more than 10 per cent above 1953, and make the best year for Savings Bonds since World War II when the patriotic factor was such a strong influence in the popularity of these issues.

Temperatures as low as 12 were recorded here this week.

Some Crop Controls Are Abolished

Important news comes to Virginia farmers in the form of an announcement that Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson has abolished previously proposed special controls on the production of certain crops in 1955.

Specifically the announcement did this, according to W. T. Powers, the State Administrative Officer of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee:

(1) It removed the requirement that a producer must comply with all crop allotments established for his farm in 1955 to be eligible for price support on any crop. This requirement was known as "cross-compliance."

(2) It dropped the proposed limitation which would have required the commercial vegetable and potato growers to hold the 1955 harvest within the limit of the 1952-1953 average acreage in order to be eligible for price support on any crop.

When the special controls were announced last June, the Secretary of Agriculture termed them a "necessary evil" to avoid a serious surplus problem, Powers explained However, in view of recent developments, including the provision of price flexibility in the new Agricultural Act, the short production outlook as a result of the drought, and a 1954 corn crop well short of requirements, the Secretary reversed his original proposals.

This decision means that the only production controls to be in effect in 1955 will be the acreage allotments and marketing quotas on basic crops. In Virginia, an acreage allotment program will be in effect on the 1955 corn crop in nine Virginia counties. On wheat, peanuts, and cotton, both acreage allotments and marketing quotas will be in effect.

Powers explained that removal of these proposed special controls affects price supports only. He stressed the fact that compliance with any and all farm acreage allotments is a requirement for eligibility for cost-sharing under the 1955 Agricultural Conservation program.

FORESEE TOTAL OF THREE MILLION LOANS TO VETERANS

More than three million additional World War II and Post-Korea veterans are likely to get GI loans before their respective deadlines, Veterans Administration forecast.

That estimate is contained in a decennial report, a 40-page pamphlet entitled, "GI Loans, the First Ten Years," released by VA on the accomplishments, impact, and future of the GI loan program.

The decennial report records the legislative and administrative history of "a bold venture in veterans benefits" that already has enabled more than 3½ million veterans to borrow $23.5 billion for homes farms, and businesses.

In the foreword to the report, Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans Affairs praises the response of private industry to "what has been the greatest Government - sponsored credit venture of its kind" and pays tribute to the efforts of VA employees who have been engaged in its administration.

The report reviews the relatively small cost of the GI loan program to the taxpayers of the nation and reveals that administrative expenses have been about 43 cents for every hundred dollars borrowed by veterans.

In estimating that more than three million additional veterans will use their GI loan benefits, VA said it seems reasonable to assume that at least a million more loans would be made to World War II veterans and at least two million to veterans with service since June 27 1950, the beginning of the Korean conflict.

Most World War II veterans have until July 25, 1957 to obtain GI loans, while post-Korea veterans have until ten years after the end of the present emergency, a date yet to be determined by Presidential proclamation or by concurrent resolution of the Congress.

Looking for a "last minute" gift selection? How about a subscription to The Times-Virginian! $2.00 for a full year.

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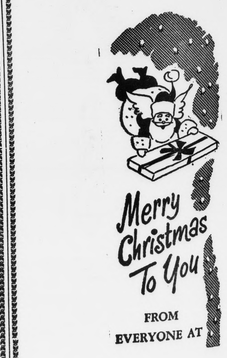

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Vicinity, Dec. 21.- Mr. Clay Cumby and Mr. and Cumby, of Farmville, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cumby Sunday.

ner dinner in honor of ack was given Sunday me, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. L. Mr. and Mrs. James Schutt, Mr. and Rowe, all of Richmond. Sydes, of Lynchburg; ss Bonner and Miss Bessner.

Stanton and two chil- Telford, Tennessee, are and Mrs. G. P. Stanton.

Mrs. Herbert Greene, of were Sunday afternoon er mother, Mrs. Juddy

Rose Ann Glover spent Saturday night with Miss Bettie B. Tillery.

Mrs. Gladys Payne and daughter, Thelma, and Mrs. Nona Stanton were shopping in Farmville Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Cumby, of Crewe and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cumby called to see Mrs. W. S. Cumby recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew R. Mann attended the bridal shower in Lynchburg of her sister, Martha English Fitzgerald. The honoree received very many useful gifts.

Mrs. R. C. Hinman, from Suffolk and Billy Neal, from Portsmouth spent the week-end with Mrs. L. M. Southall and Mrs. Lizzie P. Robinson.

Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Caldwell, of Lynchburg spent the week-end here with relatives.

Mrs. Lewis Mann and children and Mrs. Joan Mann and son visited Mrs. Gaynella Sheppard, of Brooknel over the week-end.

Miss Cassie Baldwin and Mrs. Lizzie P. Robinson attended the Baker Phelps wedding at Spring Creek Church Saturday P. M.

Mr. and Mrs. Campbell Ramsey of Lynchburg were guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Coley Ramsey.

We want to wish each and every one a Merry, Merry Christmas.

Pole Construction Popular on Farms

Pole construction has come into its own for farm buildings.

G. D. Kite, agricultural engineer at VPI, says new developments in building materials and modern designs have made pole building more practical and longer-lasting than ever before.

In pole construction, the poles form the framework of a building. No concrete footings or foundations are needed, and less bracing is required than in other types of construction.

Poles made of the soft, non-durable woods treated with wood preservatives will last 30 to 50 years—which is long enough for the best use of a farm building. Many buildings become out-of-date in less time.

Pole construction, although less expensive than other types, is not suitable for all farm buildings. It is most adopted to the one-story building, but not for the two-story building where footings are required. Pole-type construction is not acceptable in buildings that must meet certain sanitary requirements such as dairy barns, milking parlors, slaughter houses, and refrigerator buildings.

Advantages of pole construction include first low cost, easy and quick erection, less need for skilled labor, use of rough lumber, and convenient arrangement. For the simple, average type of farm building, the cost will vary from $1.00 to $1.50 per square foot of floor area, when the farmer buys all materials and pays labor. It would be less, of course, when farm materials and labor are used.

Plans for pole type buildings are available free from county agents.

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May you receive into your hearts and homes this year the true spirit of Christmas, and enjoy the fulfillmen of the angels' message . . . Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men!
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